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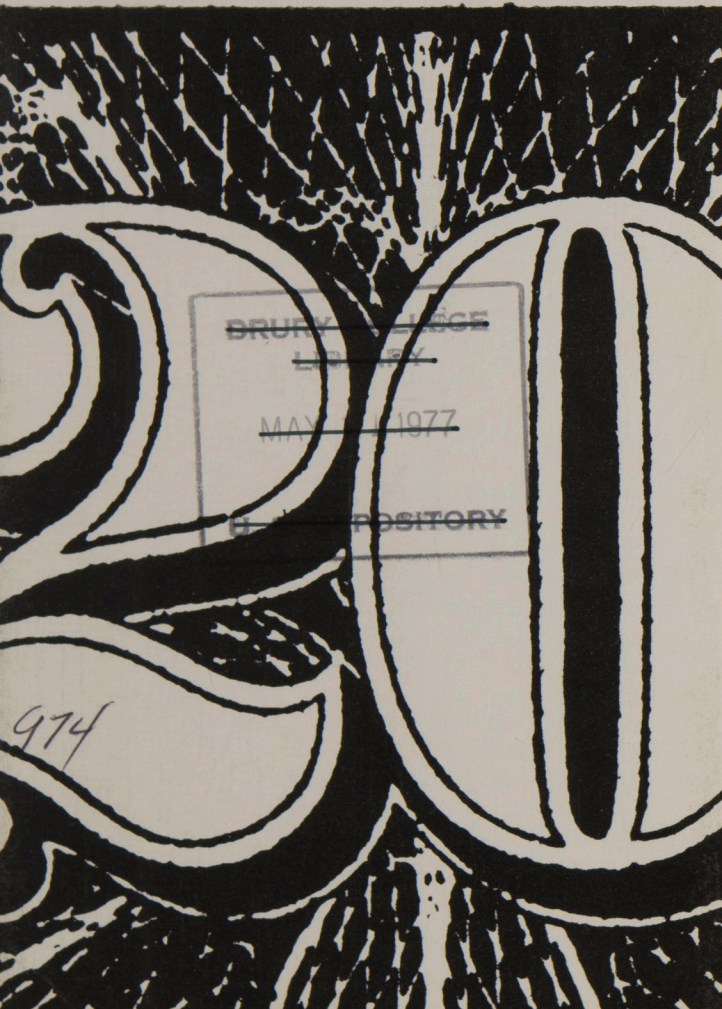
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counterfeiting and forgery

department of the treasury
united states secret service



counterfeiting

Counterfeiting of money is one of the oldest crimes in history. At some periods of early history, it was considered treasonous and was punishable by death.

During the American Revolution, the British counterfeited our currency in such large amounts that the Continental currency soon became worthless. "Not worth a Continental" became a popular expression, and is still heard today.

During the War Between the States, it was estimated that one-third of the currency in circulation was counterfeit.

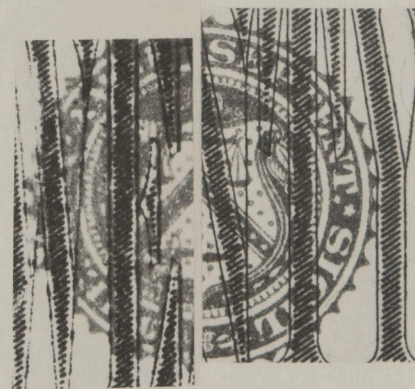
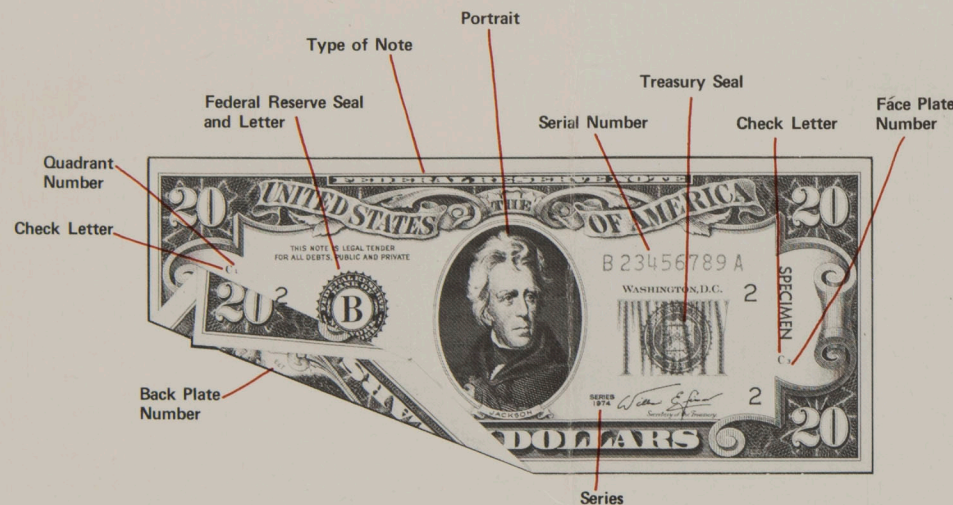
At that time, there were approximately 1,600 state banks designing and printing their own bills. Each bill carried a different design, making it difficult to detect one of the 4,000 varieties of counterfeit bills from the 7,000 varieties of genuine bills.

It was hoped the adoption of a national currency in 1863 would resolve the counterfeiting problem. However, the national currency was soon counterfeited and circulated so extensively, it became necessary to take enforcement measures. Therefore, on July 5, 1865, the United States Secret Service was established to suppress the widespread counterfeiting of this Nation's currency.

Although the counterfeiting of money was substantially suppressed after the establishment of the Secret Service, this crime represents a potential danger to the Nation's economy.

Today, counterfeiting once again is on the rise. One reason for this is the ease and speed with which large quantities of counterfeit currency can be produced using modern photographic and printing equipment.

POSITION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES ON PAPER CURRENCY



YOU can help guard against this threat by being more familiar with our currency. Only with the public's cooperation and the aid of local police departments can the United States Secret Service hope to reduce and control this crime.

This leaflet will show you how to detect counterfeit bills and coins and how to guard against forger losses.

FACTS ABOUT UNITED STATES PAPER CURRENCY

There are three types of U. S. paper currency in circulation. The name of each type appears on the upper face of the bill. The different type bills are further identified by the color of their Treasury Seal and Serial Numbers.

TREASURY SEAL AND SERIAL NUMBER		
TYPE	NUMBER	DENOMINATION
Federal Reserve Notes	Green	\$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100
United States Notes	Red	\$2, \$5 and \$100
Silver Certificates	Blue	\$1, \$5 and \$10

OTHER FACTS

- Silver Certificates as well as \$2 and \$5 United States Notes are no longer being printed.
- The \$100 bill is the highest denomination NOW being printed.

- Genuine currency is printed on special paper manufactured under strict Government control.
- The paper contains many small red and blue fibers visible to the naked eye.
- Genuine bills are printed from engraved plates made by master craftsmen using the most sophisticated equipment.

RECOGNIZING THE COUNTERFEIT BILL

The best method of detecting a counterfeit bill is to compare the suspect bill with a genuine bill of the same denomination and series. Look for the red and blue fibers in the paper. Often counterfeiters attempt to copy these fibers by printing colored lines on the paper.

If the bill that you question does contain these fibers, then compare its other features with the genuine bill. **Look for differences—not similarities.**

The counterfeiter does not have access to equipment as sophisticated as the Government's. Nor does he possess the skill of the Government's master craftsmen. Therefore, his bills are inferior. Most counterfeits are made by a photo-mechanical process. The printing appears flat and lacks the three-dimensional quality of genuine bills.

Further, the lines in the portrait background, if you look closely, form squares. On counterfeits, some of these squares may be filled in, and many of the delicate lines in the portrait may be broken or missing.

IF YOU RECEIVE A COUNTERFEIT BILL

- **Do not** return it to the passer.
- **Delay** the passer if possible.
- **Telephone** the police or the **United States Secret Service.**
- **Note** the passer's description, the description of any companion and the license number of the vehicle used.
- **Write** your initials and the date on the bill.
- **Handle** the bill as little as possible to preserve any fingerprints and place it in a protective cover.
- **Surrender** the bill only to the police or the **U.S. Secret Service.**

COUNTERFEIT COINS

The suspected counterfeit coin should be compared with a genuine coin of the same denomination. Many counterfeit coins feel greasy. The reeding (corrugated outer edge) on counterfeits is uneven, crooked and, oftentimes, missing. A band of copper should be clearly visible on genuine 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and \$1.00 pieces struck on the new nonsilver clad alloys. These coins bear dates of 1965 and later.

COUNTERFEIT

PORTRAIT

Portrait is lifeless and the background is usually too dark. Portrait merges into the background. The hairlines are not distinct.

FEDERAL RESERVE AND TREASURY SEALS

Saw-toothed points on the circumference are usually uneven, blunt and broken off.

SERIAL NUMBERS

The serial numbers may be in the wrong color. They may not be properly spaced or aligned.

BORDER

The fine lines that crisscross are not clear or distinct.

GENUINE

Portrait appears life-like and stands out distinctly from the fine screen-like background. The hairlines are distinct.

Saw-toothed points are even, clear and sharp.

Serial numbers are evenly spaced and aligned. They have a distinctive style.

The fine lines are clear, distinct and unbroken.

forgery

More than 800 million U. S. Government checks are issued each year. This large number attracts criminals who specialize in stealing and forging thousands of them. A high percentage of the thefts are from mail-boxes in apartment houses and private homes.

A check thief usually forges a signature and presents false identification. Retail merchants often unknowingly aid the forger by failing to request proper identification. The merchants suffer the loss from forged checks they cash.

Many losses can be avoided if the merchant asks himself these questions:

1. Is it a type of identification worthy of confidence?
2. Does the identification really belong to the person presenting it?
3. Does the identification appear to be genuine and unaltered?
4. Would considerable effort and time be required to obtain such identification?
5. Is the personal appearance of the endorser consistent with the kind of person who would be expected to have such identification?

Anyone cashing a Government check should consider the purpose for which the check is drawn, stated on the front of the check in relation to the person presenting it. For instance, a teenager should not be cashing an Old Age and Survivors check. Nor should a young adult be cashing a Social Security annuity check.

IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURE
When cashing this check for the individual payee you should require full identification and endorsement in your presence, as claims against endorser may otherwise result.

The payee should endorse below in ink or indelible pencil.

If the endorsement is made by mark (X) it must be witnessed by two persons who can write, giving their places of residence full.

It is suggested this check be promptly negotiated.

TREASURY
DIVISION OF
DISBURSEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

No. 92,956,539
SYMBOL 3000
MAR 19 1971

Treasury of the United States

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
CAROLYN S LEE
10456 ROSEHULL AVE
FALL CHURCH
VA 20041

CSA1269437 CSA ANNUITY

\$***573 00

15-51
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DO NOT FOLD, SPIN, OR MUTILATE
KNOW YOUR ENDORSEMENT - REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION

DRINK FOR ABOVE OBJECT

000000051

Henry K. Cade

Forgery losses would be greatly reduced if people who cash U. S. Government checks knew the endorser or required proper identification.

Many Government checks, particularly those issued for Social Security or income tax refunds, are made payable to a husband and wife. Such checks must be endorsed by both payees before they are cashed; failure to do so may invalidate them or require the Department of the Treasury to stop payment while an investigation is conducted.

A Government check issued after the payee dies cannot lawfully be cashed by a member of his family or even by the administrator of his estate. Such checks must be returned to the issuing government agency, along with information about the death of the payee. The issuing agency then determines what portion of the check, if any, belongs to the survivors.

U. S. SAVINGS BONDS

United States Savings Bonds are safer than cash because the Department of the Treasury will replace Savings Bonds which are stolen, mutilated, destroyed or forged.

Persons who keep their bonds at home are victimized by burglars. Occasionally bond owners fail to discover their bonds are missing months after they have been stolen.

The following suggestions will aid the United States Secret Service in its effort to suppress forgery and assist the government in replacing or stolen bonds.

1. Keep bonds in a safe deposit box or safe place.
2. Keep a record of serial numbers, amount and issue dates separate from the bonds.
3. Give prompt notice of loss with serial number, issue dates (month and year), denomination (maturity value) and name and address of owner to the Bureau of Public Debt, 200 Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101.

U. S. GPO
Depository 336

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Washington University Lib
St. Louis, MO 63130

**Counterfeiting and Forgery are Federal
Crimes and Carry Heavy Penalties.**